

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: June 4-10, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

What appears to be a collared black wolf was sighted passing through an area northwest of Broadus, MT on May 13th. The animal was photographed and photos were shown to FWP personnel. There have been no known sightings since mid-May, but FWP personnel continue to monitor the area for wolf sign, and search for radio frequencies of missing collared black wolves. Public reporting to FWP is helpful in monitoring wolf activity throughout Montana.

6/6: Rachael Panning began work as a volunteer for the wolf program in region 1.

Region 1 wolf team has been conducting den surveys through the region over the last several weeks. Bearfite, Dutch, Kintla, Kootenai South, Kootenai North, Murphy Lake, Preacher, Lazy Creek, Satire, Tallulah are either known to be or appear to be active. Active den sites for Candy Mountain, O'Brien, Twilight, Cabinet, Ksanka, Ashley, Wolf Prairie, Pulpit have not yet been detected.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

6/6: WS investigated a report of a calf being injured by wolves and later euthanized by the producer south of Butte. WS determined it was unconfirmed as a wolf kill and was attacked by a coyotes.

6/6: WS investigated a report of a calf being killed by wolves in the Loma area. It was unconfirmed, or wolves did not kill it. While tracking conditions were very favorable, no wolf tracks were identified. The calf had a rip in the neck that had been infected and a tear in the belly.

6/6: WS investigated a report of a calf being killed by wolves in the Lima area. It was unconfirmed or wolves did not kill it.

6/10: WS confirmed that a calf was killed by a wolf on private land near Ranynesford. It is unknown if it was a dispersing wolf or new localized activity. WS has been authorized to collar and release one wolf to learn more about activity in the area.

6/10: WS called in and killed an adult female wolf as part of the Avon control authorization that resulted from the late May conflicts. Control is ongoing.

6/8-6/11: WS has reported additional calves confirmed killed by wolves between Avon and Helmville. One calf was killed on 6/8, one on 6/10, and one on 6/11. Some of these depredations likely involve the Sixmile Pack.

Unreported News from Previous Weeks

5/31: WS investigated a report of a wolf kill in the Winston area. It was unconfirmed, wolves did not kill it.

5/31: WS investigated a report of a wolf kill in the Coal Banks Landing area. It was unconfirmed, wolves did not kill it.

5/31: WS confirmed that a sheep had died of injuries in the Sieben area from previous confirmed wolf attacks. A missing sheep was ruled as a probable wolf kill. A black bear was confirmed to be killing sheep in the area as well.

6/3: WS confirmed a calf as killed by wolves in the Dell area, the calf was most likely killed during the May 31 depredations. The management action will continue.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

6/9: Laudon talked to a group of Glacier National Park interpreters on wolf recovery and management in Montana

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

OTHER UPDATES:

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.